



St Bede's College

24 April 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we continue with this pattern of social isolation, I do hope that you and the family are well.

We are all learning to adapt to change in many different parts of our lives. One of the most refreshing parts of my week is to speak with the College Captains and to compare notes with them on our collective new experience. We also had a conversation recently with all the College Student Leaders. While we did speak about how they were faring with their studies, the one thing that was clear from them was the message that health and wellbeing should be a focus during this time. We are increasingly aware that no two families have the same situation in terms of the structures and activities that need to occur within each during social isolation. It is a challenge for everyone. We are doing all we can to work with you and all families to ensure your son comes out of this period mentally strong and optimistic.

Hopefully, you would have seen the video message sent out by our College Captain, Elijah Barrett and our three Vice-Captains in Matthew Dunne, Flynn Morley and William Bunn, which was sent on Monday 20 April. Beyond some practical tips for effective study, their focus was on staying positive through good daily exercise, positive social contact and some form of meditation or prayer. This reflected the precise sentiments of all the College Leaders. This cannot be over emphasised. We were also encouraged by our leaders urging us to show kindness wherever possible. Their optimism is a tonic to us all. The leaders will continue to send out a video message each Day 6.

There is no known timeline for a return to onsite learning. We will be guided by the Victorian Government for such timing. I direct your attention to two additional sections of our website under the "News" category. The first is a compilation of the important letters and videos sent out thus far, in relation to *COVID-19* and the College response. You will find this useful in terms of tracking some of the past information that has been sent out to you. The second section is for any family that is looking at having their son begin with us next year or beyond under the heading, *Virtual Tours*. We are moving to this mode along with online gatherings for future families, in lieu of being able to offer onsite transition, tours and information.

In terms of communication, we will be endeavouring to make **phone contact with every family**, beginning on Monday 27 April. This is to touch base with you and enquire about how the needs of your son are being met. Given the size of our Community, these calls will require a number of weeks to complete. We do look forward to you taking up this opportunity to respond.

As indicated previously, we are asking for feedback on the first two weeks of offsite/online learning. Every school has their particular approach and we will be considering the feedback and making modifications as deemed necessary. There is no one ideal system. Any changes to our processes will occur from Monday 4 May with parents and students being advised in the week prior. To this end, we ask that you click on the link below and complete the survey as indicated:



(If you have any issues opening the Survey, please copy and paste this link to your browser: <https://forms.gle/zZ9qaYJCUhL8sNzPA>)

Thank you for your ongoing support of the College. We have received many expressions of good wishes from our parents and guardians, understanding the unique situation we are all experiencing. Please ensure that you always contact the College with any query, whether it be academic, pastoral or a practical question.

Let us all remember ANZAC Day tomorrow. My grandfather, whom I never met, landed at Gallipoli as part of the first wave of Australian soldiers. He was injured on the same day and repatriated to London. I have always been so appreciative of his sacrifice and that of thousands of others.

Every blessing for the week ahead.

Per Vias Rectas

Yours sincerely

Mr John Finn
PRINCIPAL
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